

VZCZCXRO4898

OO RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH
DE RUEHKO #0530 0690826

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

O 100826Z MAR 09

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1347

INFO RUEHB/Y/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 3072

RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 2367

RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 2254

RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE 1093

RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE 1141

RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA IMMEDIATE 2850

RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA IMMEDIATE 0639

RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA IMMEDIATE 5196

RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE IMMEDIATE 6641

RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO IMMEDIATE 3399

RHMFIUU/FBI WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUCPDC/NOAA NMFS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TOKYO 000530

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/J AND OES/OA - MHAYES/LPHELPS

USDOC FOR NOAA/NMFS - CMCCARTY AND RWULFF

FBI FOR COUNTERTERRORISM DIVISION ATTN: DOMESTIC TERRORISM

OPERATIONS UNIT (DTOU)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: SENV EFIS IWC JA

SUBJECT: WHALING:GOJ REPORTS SEA SHEPHERD TO IMO

REF: A. TOKYO 322

B. STATE 20826

¶1. (SBU) EST Unit Chief and Senior Environmental Affairs LES called on Fisheries Agency of Japan Far Seas Fisheries Division Assistant Director Shigeki Takaya March 9 to inform him of CEQ Chair Sutley's March 6 statement regarding the USG position on whaling, and of USG plans to demarche the Government of the Netherlands on the actions of the protest ship MV Steve Irwin (ref B). Takaya said he appreciated the information and hoped for progress in Rome at the International Whaling Commission intersessional meeting March 9-11. Regarding the MV Steve Irwin and the protest activities of the NGO Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, he said the GOJ appreciated USG efforts and looked forward to continued USG action as requested in ref A.

¶2. (SBU) Takaya confirmed press reports that the GOJ had informed the International Maritime Organization that members of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society had violated the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA Convention) during their protest of Japan's whaling fleet in the Southern Ocean in early 2007. Takaya said the GOJ reported the 2007 incidents to the IMO at this time because it had identified the three suspects by name, as required by the Convention. He added that the GOJ still is investigating the incidents that took place during the 2008 and 2009 whaling seasons, and is not ready to identify suspects in those cases.

ZUMWALT